

Implementation of Critical Biodiversity Areas in the Landscape: Beyond Legislated Protected Areas

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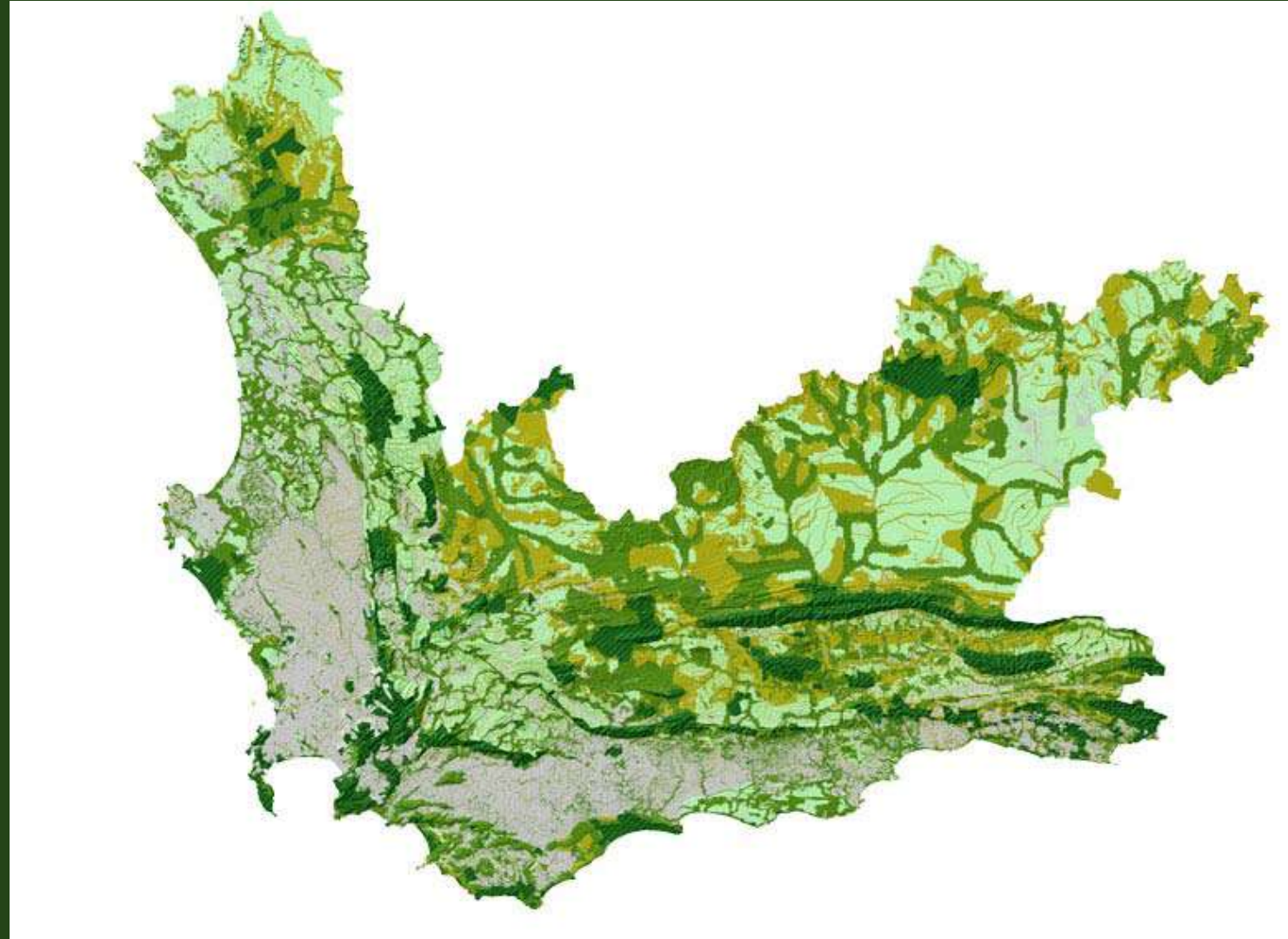
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Critical Biodiversity Areas

- ▶ Minimum, most efficient set of areas national biodiversity thresholds
- ▶ Terrestrial and freshwater Biodiversity pattern and ecological process thresholds
- ▶ Land use objectives
 - ▶ Same objective as for protected areas

Protected Area Expansion Strategy

- ▶ Aimed at a sub-set of the highest priority CBAs for protection through conservation in terms of NEM:PAA



Convention on Biological Diversity: Aichi Targets

The Strategic Plan is comprised of a shared vision, a mission, strategic goals and 20 ambitious yet achievable targets, collectively known as the Aichi Targets. The Strategic Plan serves as a flexible framework for the establishment of national and regional targets and it promotes the coherent and effective implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

THE VISION

"By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people."

THE MISSION

"Take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication. To ensure this, pressures on biodiversity are reduced, ecosystems are restored, biological resources are sustainably used and benefits arising out of utilization of genetic resources are shared in a fair and equitable manner; adequate financial resources are provided, capacities are enhanced, biodiversity issues and values mainstreamed, appropriate policies are effectively implemented, and decision-making is based on sound science and the precautionary approach."

The Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society



By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.



By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.



By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.



By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.



By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

Strategic Goal B: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity



By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems

of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes.



By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.



By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services.



By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.



By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.



By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building



By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.



By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.



By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.

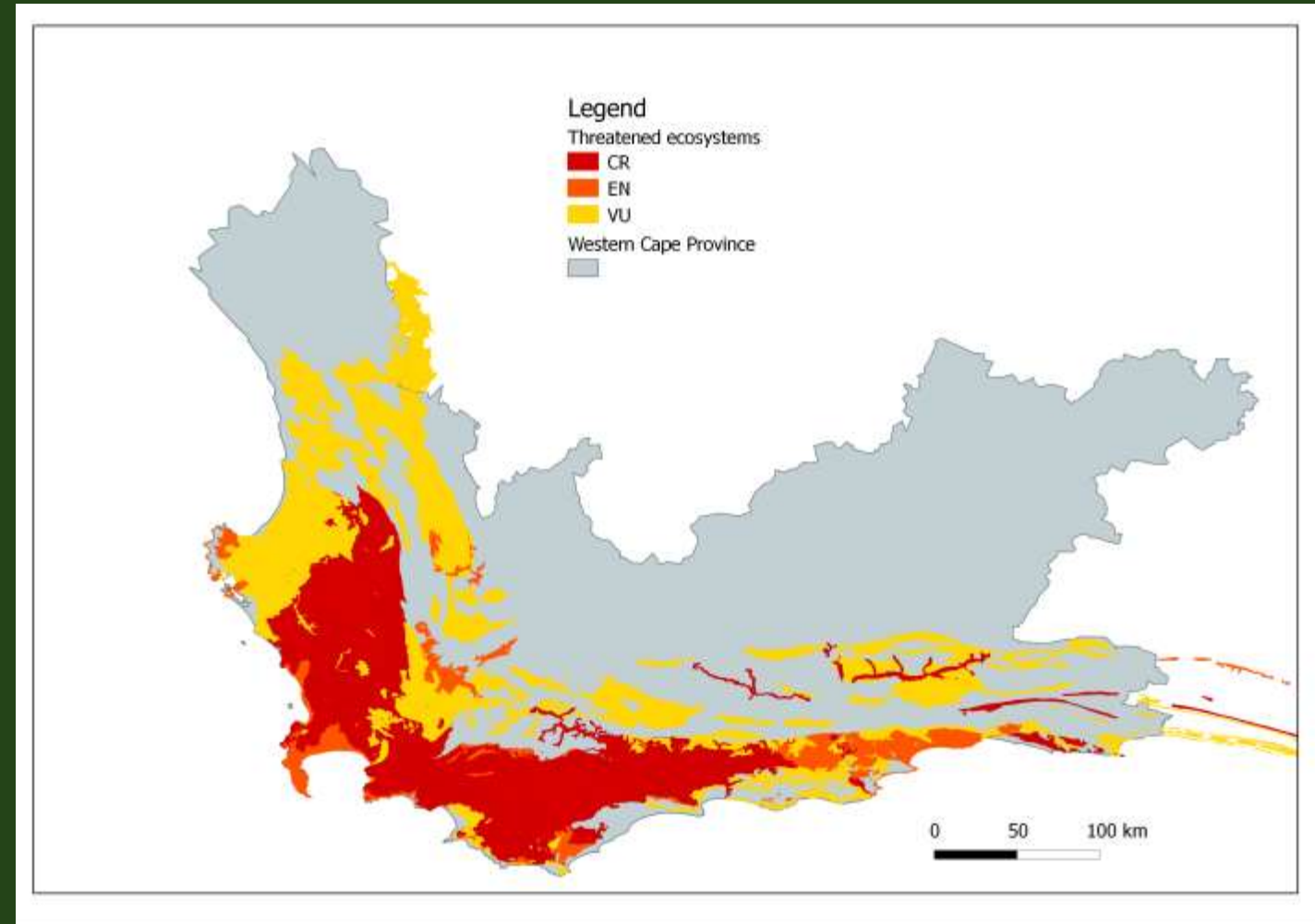


By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 from all sources and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resources needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.

feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

Protected Area Expansion Mechanisms

- ▶ Historically: state land purchase primarily (& no PAES)
- ▶ Currently: core strategy - stewardship
 - ▶ majority conservation-worthy (and under-represented) biodiversity on private land
 - ▶ cost-effective and feasible
- ▶ Limitation - capacity: both negotiating new sites and auditing signed up sites.
 - ▶ Need to expand the programme and/or identify additional partners
 - ▶ Therefore currently focused on TOP PRIORITIES



Conservation & development applications

Reactive Stewardship

- ▶ Not through proactive extension according to PAES
 - ▶ Voluntary
 - ▶ Trade-off (conservation in return for development rights)
- ▶ Costs to developer

Biodiversity Offsets

Securing habitat for conservation either on the development site or away from the development site



On-site offsets or set asides

- ▶ Offset: to compensate for the loss of biodiversity on site
 - ▶ must conform to offset guidelines and requirements as a minimum
- ▶ Not an offset: conservation area part of development proposal but will not result in loss of biodiversity
 - ▶ on-site set asides
 - ▶ make application “more appealing” but not compensating for loss
 - ▶ does not need to conform to offset guidelines and requirements
- ▶ Securing the on site offset/set aside....:
 - ▶ PAES Priority – stewardship
 - ▶ Not PAES priority - ?

Non PAES Priority CBAs

- ▶ Land use applications (mainly EIA) – degree of protection
 - ▶ NEMA listed activities
 - ▶ Most development not supported
- ▶ Mainstream into SDFs
 - ▶ Municipality responsible
- ▶ Can be compromised through degradation, poor management etc..
- ▶ Opportunities arise through development applications
- ▶ Second tier of conservation areas below NEM:PAA protected areas



- ▶ Current planning legislative trends do not encourage conservation on agricultural land – maximise food security
- ▶ CBAs not formally protected under threat
- ▶ Most highly threatened ecosystems in agriculturally productive land e.g. 3 Swartland Renosterveld (West Coast) & 4 Rûens Renosterveld (Overberg) vegetation types – all Critically Endangered (conservation targets already cannot be met)
- ▶ Stewardship cannot get to all the small fragments & multiple landowners (all that is left)



Rezoning

- ▶ Role of planning legislation, zoning schemes and municipalities.
- ▶ Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA) and WC Land Use Planning Act (LUPA)
 - ▶ Competent authority: municipality
- ▶ Zonation provides protection from land use change
- ▶ Under WC Land Use Planning Ordinance (1983-date):
 - ▶ No rezoning out of Agriculture to Open Space III (conservation) without a stewardship agreement (contract nature reserve or biodiversity agreement)
 - ▶ Prevent additional building rights in rural areas

WC Standard Draft Municipal Zoning Scheme By-law



OPEN SPACE ZONES (OSZ)

▶ OPEN SPACE ZONE III (OSZIII)

▶ Primary uses

- ▶ Nature conservation area (non-statutory conservation)

▶ Consent uses

- ▶ Harvesting of natural resources
- ▶ Environmental facilities
- ▶ Tourist facilities
- ▶ Utility service
- ▶ Environmental conservation plan for approval

▶ OPEN SPACE ZONE IV (OSZIV)

▶ Primary uses

- ▶ Nature reserve (statutory conservation)

▶ Consent uses

- ▶ Tourist accommodation
- ▶ Tourist facilities
- ▶ Utility service.

Implications

▶ OS IV/Nature Reserve

- ▶ Statutory protected area – national park or nature reserve under NEM:PAA
- ▶ Well defined – continue *status quo*
- ▶ State owned:
 - ▶ National Park (SANParks)
 - ▶ Provincial Nature Reserve (CapeNature)
- ▶ Privately owned:
 - ▶ Stewardship Contract Nature Reserve (agreement with CapeNature/partner with CapeNature endorsement)

▶ OS III/Nature Conservation Area

- ▶ Non-statutory protected area
- ▶ Options (not yet defined):
- ▶ State owned:
 - ▶ Municipal open space (nature reserve ONLY for S23 NEM:PAA PA)
 - ▶ State land - ?
- ▶ Privately owned:
 - ▶ Stewardship Biodiversity Agreement/Voluntary Conservation Area (agreement with CapeNature/partner with CapeNature endorsement)
 - ▶ Private conservation area administered by municipality - ?

Municipal Capacity

- ▶ Implementation of zoning scheme
- ▶ Open Space II/Nature Conservation Area
- ▶ Capacity varies
- ▶ City of Cape Town – Biodiversity Management Branch
 - ▶ Stewardship
- ▶ Non-metro municipalities capacity more limited
 - ▶ Biodiversity may fall through the gaps
 - ▶ Planning approvals
 - ▶ Municipal Planning Tribunals

Adoption of WC Standard Draft Zoning Scheme By-Law

- ▶ Not obliged to adopt
- ▶ Two different conservation zonings supported
- ▶ Can still conserve biodiversity with other zonings:
 - ▶ Open Space (Public and Private)
 - ▶ Agriculture
 - ▶ Resort Zone III (Eco Housing)
- ▶ No security

Conclusion

- ▶ Primary Focus - need to ensure that protected area expansion is adequately resourced
 - ▶ CapeNature Stewardship
- ▶ Second-tier priority CBAs secured through zoning – close the gap
 - ▶ Strategy mainly reactive
- ▶ Capacitate municipalities
- ▶ Adapt approach according to regional capacity - ?
- ▶ Lower level conservation options should still conceivably contribute towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets (provided primary objective is conservation)

- ▶ Experiences elsewhere??
- ▶ Questions?
- ▶ Thank you!

- ▶ Acknowledgements: ispot (photos); Ruida Stanvliet (CapeNature)

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